

REMARKS

Support for the amendments to Claim 13 can be found in original Claim 1. No new matter has been added and entry is respectfully requested.

First, Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 15-35 and the indication that Claims 13 and 14 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 13 is allowable. Claim 14 depends from Claim 13 and is therefore also allowable.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection, which appears on page 4, numbered paragraph 7 of the Official Action, is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. With respect to the remaining Claims (*i.e.*, Claims 13 and 14), the Official Action has objected to the phrase "*unetched semiconductor device*" which appears in Claim 1. Claims 13 and 14 were apparently rejected as being dependent from Claim 1. Claim 13, however, has been rewritten in independent form. Further, Claim 13 as amended recites "providing a semiconductor device" rather than "providing an unetched semiconductor device". This language is clearly supported in the specification (*e.g.*, original Claim 1). Claim 14 depends from Claim 13. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,980,018 to Mu et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Mu"). Claims 4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Mu. Claims 4 and

8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Mu in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,626,775 to Roberts et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Roberts").

Claims 1-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, each of the aforementioned rejections has been obviated.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and therefore request favorable consideration. If any issues remain which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' counsel, Christopher W. Raimund at (202) 326-0345.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD

Jan 30, 2005
Date

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

901 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Suite 850
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: (202) 326-0300
Facsimile: (202) 326-0778

[Signature]
Steven B. Kelber
Registration No. 30,073
Attorney of Record

Christopher W. Raimund
Registration No. 47,258